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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT and LABOR FORCE

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MONTHLY REPORT

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 1977

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

Volume 7 Number 5

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
and Bureau of Labor Statistics

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

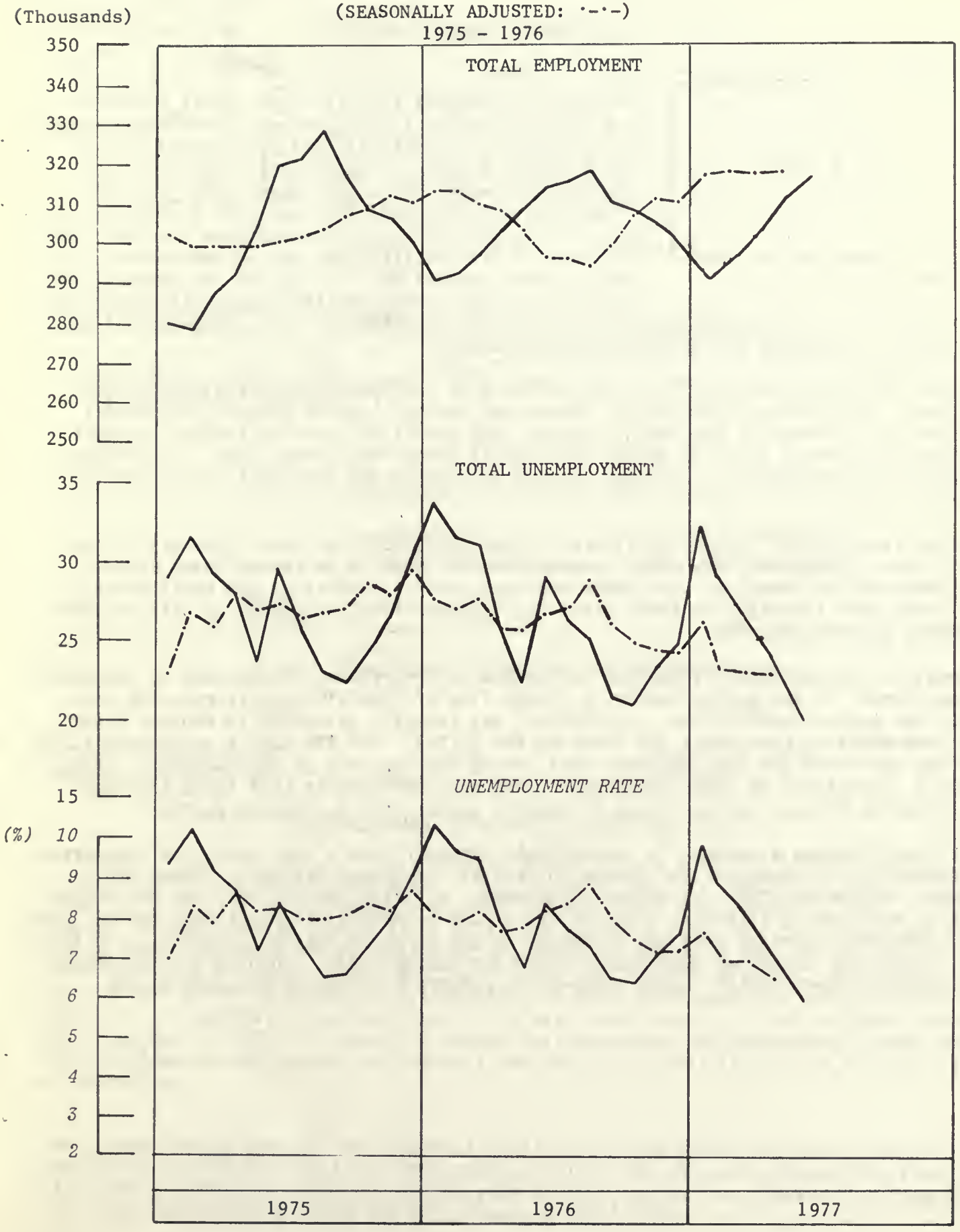
12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: ——)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: ·-·-)
1975 - 1976



HIGHLIGHTS: APRIL 1977

Montana's employment statistics for April reflected the seasonal upturn in the economy. Warm temperatures aided construction activity and accelerated spring break-up for loggers. The resultant increase in employment lowered the unemployment rate to 7.0% - a noticeable improvement from the 8.1% last month and the 7.9% in April of 1976. Claims data from the local job service offices also show marked improvements with total claims decreasing 19.3% (21.6% for females and 18.5% for males). More detailed examination of claims characteristics revealed no definitive unemployment patterns. The statewide decrease was spread throughout all occupational categories.

Montana's economy continues to be at the mercy of the weather and resultant energy problems. While uncertainty builds concerning energy, leading economic indicators portray solid growth in the coming months. The Composite Index of leading economic indicators stood at 102.7 in March, the highest index value since 1968. The extent to which this potential is utilized depends heavily on the ability to solve emerging energy problems.

Another factor which must be considered is the possibility of labor disputes in the near future. Contracts now under renegotiation or soon to be renegotiated affect: the construction industry, the lumber and wood products industry, and metal mining. Prolonged work stoppages in these areas could damage local economies as well as deter economic growth statewide.

Generally, the employment situation in Montana is favorable. In addition to expansion of employment in the public sector, a steady flow of Federal funds is entering the state for public service jobs. $18,400,947 was recently allocated to Montana under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). $12,034,029 is to sustain 1,379 current positions and the remainder will create 829 new jobs (a 60% increase). Also, the U.S. Department of Labor announced in May that $896,300 in CETA funds had been allocated to Montana Indian Tribes to provide summer jobs for Indian youths.

At present Montana's economy is considerably stronger than a year ago. The job market is expanding and prospects for growth in capital investment are good. There are, however, weaknesses that are becoming apparent. Building permits fell off the record pace in April and preliminary data for May insure no monthly increase over April. Also, Real Spendable Earnings have not responded to the surge in business activity. In fact, real wages have decreased every month since 4th quarter 1976. Coupled with depressed farm prices, these factors could temporarily constrain projected economic growth.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In April, the number of labor force participants reached 33,900, up 200 from March and 1,400 or 4.3% ahead of April 1976. The number of employed persons rose 400 from March to 31,900. In comparison with April 1976, about 2,000 more workers found gainful employment in the county. Further breakdown as to where the jobs were found leads to the following: Services and mining employment is up by 600, construction 300, trade and finance each increased by 200 and manufacturing 100. All totaled, non-farm wage and salary employment is up 1,400 from April year ago levels.

The number of unemployed persons dropped 200 from last month to 2,000 individuals in April. This brought the April jobless rate to 5.9%, compared with 6.5% in March and 7.9% in April one year ago. As of April, the Great Falls labor market is in much stronger shape than it was in early 1976, when the area was still feeling the effects of the nationwide recession.

GREAT FALLS

April Claims Characteristics by Job Service Office

	Percent of All Continued Claims	Percent Change from the Previous Month
Males	73%	80%
Females	27%	85%

Last Industry or Occupation of the Unemployed

Males		Females	
Building Construction	10%	Clerical & Sales	48%
Highway Construction	17%	Service	32%

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The latest report on new car registrations showed that a total of 279 cars were registered in the Great Falls SMSA during April. This brought the 1977 cumulative total to 957, 20.4% under the 1,203 car registrations recorded for the first four months of 1976. With the overall economy showing strong signs of a good economic year, new car sales seem off to a poor year. As noted in the statewide highlights, cumulative new car registrations are down in nearly all parts of Montana and 21% for the state as a whole. No concrete explanation can be found for this situation, as nearly all counties are showing net declines. In contrast, national statistics have shown new car sales increases during the first quarter of 1977. It could be stated that Montanans are displaying a more cautious attitude toward rushing out and buying a new car, with Great Falls area residents being no exception.

April bank debits totaled nearly $905.4 million, up from $741.0 million in March. Cumulative debits for the first four months of 1977 are up nearly three fold from last year's comparable period. In the same period, new business formations totaled 195, over double the 81 recorded for January - April 1976.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cont.)

A strike by union members of the laborers union has temporarily slowed or halted work on major building construction projects in Great Falls. The labor dispute also affected the highway construction industry throughout the state. Of the approximate 1,500 union members in the Construction General Laborer's Union, about 700 belong to the local in Great Falls.

A smelter in Great Falls has steadily added workers since the beginning of the year. However, during May, two layoffs totaling 50 laborers was announced by the firm because of a production cutback.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In April, the employed labor force swelled 200 from March to 48,300 workers. This represents a 2,900 employment gain from April 1976, when 45,400 persons were employed in the Billings SMSA. Non-farm wage and salary employment rose 2,900 from last year's levels, with the largest percentage gains coming from wholesale-retail trade, government, and manufacturing, respectively. Agricultural employment totaled 1,600 in April, which represents no change from the same month a year ago.

The unemployment picture also reflected a positive picture, as 400 individuals left the jobless rolls in April, bringing the total down to 2,600 individuals, or 5% of the civilian labor force. In April 1976, 2,900 individuals were unemployed, with an unemployment rate of 5.9%.

BILLINGS

April Claims Characteristics by Job Service Office

	Percent of All Continued Claims	Percent Change from the Previous Month
Males	82%	-14%
Females	18%	-17%

Last Industry or Occupation of the Unemployed

Males		Females	
Highway Construction	24%	Eating and Drinking Places	12%
Other Construction	25%	Health Services	8%

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In April, 47 new business firms entered the Billings SMSA. On a cumulative basis, 235 new firms have been created since the beginning of 1977, compared with 111 business formations in the first four months of 1976. The "Magic City" continues its steady growth pattern in terms of both labor force and business activity, with all signs pointing toward another excellent year.

BILLINGS SMSA (Cont.)

Yellowstone County led all counties in the state in new car registrations at 505 for April. Following statewide trends, car registrations got off to a slow start in the Billings area. However, the latest April figures could be an early indication of a positive change in new car buying in the Billings area. The fact remains that on a cumulative basis through April, registrations are still off 13% from 1976 levels. Bank debits, a rough indicator of spending activities for goods and services were also active in April, reaching $640.2 million 56% higher than in April 1976.

With a growing population and expanding labor force, the atmosphere remains good for business expansion in the Billings area. Particularly active are the retail trade and building construction industries. Billings has become a Montana - Northern Wyoming regional shopping center. The trade sector boosted an April employment level which is 5,100 greater than the next largest shopping city, Great Falls. Home building is also off to a record year, as is most major cities in the state.

During the recession, home building activity was plagued by consumer sluggishness, high interest rates, and lack of available funds. Now this pent-up demand seems to be feeding a home building boom. Also, national surveys indicate that consumers are buying now for fear of rising home costs, which are increasingly putting the single family home out of reach for many American families. At the same time, money is now readily available at interest rates generally lower than the past two years.

A new home manufacturer entered Billings in May with a plant capacity up to 250 homes a year. The prefabricated homes will list at a price range from $30,000 to $100,000. During full scale operations, the firm could employ over 200 people.

At present, shortage occupations include diesel and other mechanics, legal and other qualified secretaries. There is also a good demand for part time workers. Otherwise, the labor supply is meeting or exceeding demand.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In April, the number of employed workers dropped 300 from the previous month to 28,900 individuals in the six-county labor area. In comparison with year ago employment levels, the six counties combined to record a 9.4% net employment loss.

The unemployment situation improved somewhat, declining 300 from March to 2,900 individuals. April's unemployment rate averaged 9%, third highest in the state. The counties within the area varied from a 4.2% unemployment rate in Beaverhead County to 12.1% in Granite County. The two largest counties, Silver Bow and Deer Lodge, recorded ratios of 10.2% and 8.8% respectively.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The economic health of the six-county Anaconda-Butte labor market area is as diverse as their individual economic basis. In the agricultural based economics of the two most southern counties, Madison and Beaverhead, unemployment is fairly low. As such, the labor market is reasonably stable in these two areas.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA (Cont.)

On the other hand, the other four counties had unemployment rates reaching 8.8% and above during April. In contrast, the state as a whole averaged 7% during April. High unemployment among metal mining workers, loggers, and smelter workers contributed to this phenomenon in the Anaconda-Butte area. During the summer months, this situation should be somewhat relieved by additional acitivty in construction, (especially in Butte at the magnetohydrodynamics plant), the completion of spring "break-up" in the logging sector, and the resumption of seasonal outdoor activities.

The spending levels as measured by bank debits increased from the previous month in both Butte and Anaconda during March. In fact, cumulative bank debits for Butte and Anaconda in first quarter of 1977 rose 21% and 12%, respectively, over the same period last year.

Unemployment is still high among loggers in the Anaconda area, with the snow run off preventing workers from getting into the woods. The area smelter is slowly rehiring previously laid off workers. In the construction sector, a local contractor was apparently awarded the bid for construction of the new senior citizen's center in Anaconda. Cost of constructing the center will be $433,289.

In Butte, bids are in for the $3 million sewer project, with a Great Falls firm apparently submitting the lowest bid for the renovation project. The federal government put up $2.25 million of the total cost. Local construction companies have added about 100 workers to their payrolls during the past several weeks, although the largest majority were former employees. The retail sector generally reported sales increases over year ago levels, but few have added to their work force. The bulk of hiring activities have been food servers, cooks, clerks, and other service oriented positions.

BOZEMAN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor pool totaled 23,300 individuals in April, declining 2.1% from April 1976. In terms of employment, 21,700 workers held jobs in April, a gain of 300 from the previous month. Nearly 16,200 individuals or 75% of all workers were employed in Gallatin County. The number of unemployed persons fell 200 from March to 1,600, averaging 6.7% of the civilian labor pool within the three counties. The largest percentage of jobless workers originated in Park County, where almost 500 people were out of work, which represented a 9.5% unemployment ratio.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New car registrations for the first four months of 1977 fell 30% from the same period a year ago. Gallatin County accounted for the bulk of the year-to-year decline, 187 fewer car registrations. On the positive side, new business formations tripled last year's levels in January-April period. Also, bank debits for the twelve month period through March showed gains of 6% and 17% for Bozeman and Livingston, respectively.

BOZEMAN LMA (Cont.)

The Bozeman job service office reported that the labor supply is meeting or exceeding demands in nearly all occupational groups, with the exceptions being carpenters at wages from $5.00 to $7.00 an hour, and Food service help, including food servers, cooks and other kitchen help.

In the agriculture sector, main activities are soil preparation and fencing. Good moisture during May improved crop conditions, and chances are increasing that a grain and hay output will reach "normal" totals.

In Livingston, work is now underway on the construction of a $1.3 million, 50 unit apartment building.

As the summer tourist season approaches both Livingston and Bozeman will receive economic boosts in the form of tourist activity at gasoline stations, motels and restaurants. Both cities receive traffic coming in and out of Yellowstone National Park.

GLASGOW LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In April the number of labor participants climbed 800 from March to 16,600. This represents a 7.8% annual growth rate from April 1976. By comparison the state as a whole grew by just under two percent. The number of jobholders totaled 15,700 individuals, 94.5% of all labor force participants. In comparison with March, 800 additional workers found employment opportunities during April. At the same time, the jobless rolls fell 200, bringing April's jobless rate down to 5.5% from 7.2% in March. Among the five counties in the Glasgow labor market area, only Valley County portrayed an unemployment rate above the average for the area as a whole.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In the first four months of 1977, a total of 288 new cars were registered in the five-county Glasgow labor market area. This represents a 33% drop from the 432 new car registrations over the same period a year ago. In fact, all five counties reflected year-to-year declines ranging from -25% for Phillips and Valley counties to -63% for Sheridan County. In the same period new truck registrations were off 52% and new business formations were down 13%. The Glasgow area was the only labor area displaying negative trends in new businesses.

Retailers in Glasgow and Wolf Point reported a general sales slack in comparison with 1976 levels, although the Glasgow job service office noted some hirings in this sector during May.

The construction sector is off to a particularly slow start, with building activities at a minimum. Workers in Wolf Point are still awaiting the start of the tribal housing project. The new hospital under construction in Glasgow is now about 70% complete. Plans for a new rest home in Glasgow are expected to be finalized by early June, with

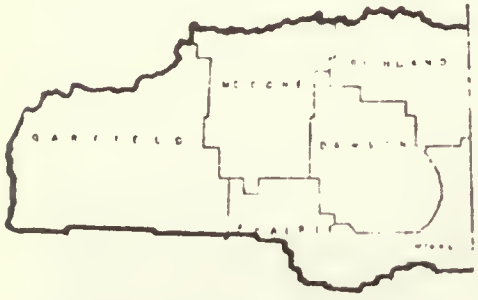
GLASGOW LMA (Cont.)

actual construction work beginning shortly after completion of the plans.

Economic indicators are quite mixed within the Glasgow labor area. In terms of the area's labor market, the situation is very positive. The labor force grew 7.8% from April 1976, one of the highest growth labor areas in the state. April's unemployment rate hit 5.5%, which is comparably low. However, retail sales, including new cars and trucks, bank debits, and new business activities all portrayed negative trends. Low prices in the area's agricultural sector are having a definite effect on these areas, but just how much cannot be accurately measured.

GLENDIVE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



At 13,600 for April, the Glendive labor area's labor pool grew 9.7% from 12,400 participants in April 1976. In comparison with the previous month, the number of employed persons jumped 800 to bring the April total to 13,000.

The unemployment situation also improved in April as 100 persons left the jobless rolls. With the six-county area, 600 persons were unemployed, 4.1% of the civilian labor force.

The occupational attachments of the unemployed changed little from last month, although the number of claimants declined significantly. Unemployment remained highest among building and highway construction workers among males, and eating and drinking places and the services industry among females.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The agricultural and construction industries highlight business activities in the Glendive area. Several large highway construction projects are well underway again this spring, after shutting down just after Thanksgiving. Many of the workers move into the area from Billings and northwestern North Dakota for the construction season. As a result, the city of Glendive receives an economic boost, especially motel-restaurant establishments. However, in late May a statewide labor dispute between contractors and the laborers of the Construction and General Laborers Union shutdown virtually all highway related work in the area.

Good rains in late May helped advance the growth rate of grain crops in the area. Presently crop cultivation and irrigation activities headline agriculture work activities.

The Glendive job service office also reported that the Bureau of Census will be employing 24 people as interviewers for a special census of Dawson County.

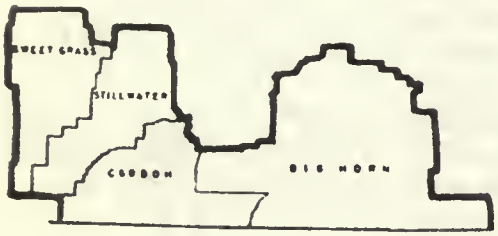
In Sidney, a new four-store shopping complex had a grand opening. The four establishments include: a bookstore, supper club, dress shop, and a health food store. A building is now being demolished to make room for a new chain hardware store. Main Street sales are reportedly good in soft goods, motels, restaurants, bars and hardware. As in Glendive, transient construction oilfield workers are pushing business activity upward in the motel-restaurant area.

GLENDIVE LMA (Cont.)

Sidney area farmers and ranchers have nearly completed planting of spring grain crops and sugar beets, with irrigation and cultivation work well underway. Because of a lack of hay and dry livestock ponds, many farmers are selling their cattle at this time. The overall agricultural situation has not been good for several years. As such, agricultural dollars are tight. Farm equipment dealers have particularly felt the squeeze.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



In April, the number of employed persons jumped 500 from the previous month to 10,900 individuals. At 700, the number of unemployed dropped 100 from both last month and the same month a year ago. The unemployment rate averaged 5.8% for the four-county labor market area in April.

Among the individual counties in the area, only Big Horn County exceeded the unemployment rate for the state as a whole. The areas ranged from a high of 8.5% for Big Horn County to a low of 2.1% in Sweet Grass County. Carbon and Stillwater counties experienced jobless ratios of 5.2% and 4.4%, respectively.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

As the summer season approaches, the four counties in the Hardin-Red Lodge labor market area prepare for employment opportunities in two largest seasonal industries, agriculture and tourism. In 1975, the agricultural industry accounted for nearly $75 million in cash receipts from the sales of agricultural products. The main activities in the four counties include cattle, sheep, hay and wheat. Carbon County receives the largest benefit from tourism, as Red Lodge boasts one of the five entranceways to Yellowstone National Park.

During April economic indicators revealed little insight into the economic condition of the four counties within the Hardin labor area. New business formations were up by over 40%, while new car and truck registrations were down nearly 30%. In terms of the labor market, only Big Horn County is presently experiencing an excess labor supply.

HAVRE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

During the one year interval between April 1976 and April 1977, the civilian labor pool in the Havre labor market area grew 12.6% or 1,400 potential workers. The number of employed persons reached 11,800, up 400 from last month. The jobless rolls dropped 100 to 700, 5.4% of those participating in the labor pool. Blaine County recorded the highest unemployment rate at 6.3%, followed by Hill and Liberty counties with rates of 5.5% and 2.5%, respectively.

HAVRE LMA (Cont.)

The largest percentage of male claimants in the Havre job service office reported last job attachment to the highway and oil & gas exploration industries, whereas female claimants were heavily dispersed within health education, amusement and other services, as well as government.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The city of Havre realized a 40% increase in bank debits in the first quarter of 1977, in comparison with the first quarter of 1976. This reflects a positive atmosphere in spending for goods and services by area consumers, as well as purchases of capital equipment and inventories by the business sector.

The Summer Program for Economically Disadvantaged Youth, (S.P.E.D.Y.), program will provide funding for summer jobs for 119 youths in Hill, Blaine, and Liberty counties. Teenagers from low income families will be able to register in the 10-week job program.

The Indian tribes at the Rocky Boy Reservation near Box Elder and Fort Belknap by Harlem should receive some unemployment relief through recently allotted federal grants under the C.E.T.A. program. The Fort Belknap Community Council will receive $103,100 and the Chippewa-Cree Tribe at Box Elder $77,500.

HELENA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

A total of 22,900 individuals held jobs in the Helena labor market area during April. The employed work force jumped 600 from March and 500 from April one year ago. The number of unemployed persons fell 200 to 1,400, representing a 5.8% unemployment rate.

April's claimant characteristics report from the Helena job service office revealed that the largest share of claims were filed by workers from highway construction, lumber and wood products, and trade construction among males - health services, eating and drinking places, and government among females.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The economic indicators for April for new business firms and bank debits both showed positive trends with near or over 50% increases from 1976 levels. However, new car registrations were off 13% from the first four months of 1976. Although negative, this indicator of retail car sales is showing downturns in nearly all parts of the state, with the Helena labor market area realizing one of the smallest declines in the state.

In the city of Helena, building contractors are active with an unprecedented number of houses under construction. In the downtown mall area, work is progressing on several new commercial buildings as well as the new federal building. A motel-restaurant in the downtown area has plans of adding a 72 to 90-room addition to the current facilities. The proposed structure would also include a convention center with accomodations for up to 450 people. The firm plans on starting construction sometime during 1977. A traffic survey has been ordered for Helena and when final plans are approved, new roads and elevated structures will be built to handle the general heavy traffic in Helena.

HELENA LMA (Cont.)

The Helena job service reported that hiring activity has been strong for clerical related positions, with supply generally meeting the demand. There is, however, a shortage of clerk typists and general clerks. Waiter-waitress positions continue as a shortage occupation.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

A total of 30,900 individuals participated in the civilian labor force in the Kalispell labor market area during April. Of these, 27,000 held jobs in the tri-county area, an increase of 400 from last month and 2,500 from April 1976. Flathead County accounted for 16,000 workers, or just under 60% of the total employment.

The unemployment situation improved slightly, although 3,900 people were still without jobs in April, representing 12.5% of all labor force participants. Lake County noted a 8.1% unemployment rate, while Flathead and Lincoln counties had rates of unemployment over 11%.

April's claim characteristics report revealed little change in the occupational excess labor supply. The largest percentage of male claimants were formerly employed in the construction and lumber and wood products industries. The only new development was an increase in claims filed by non-metallic mining and quarrying workers in the Libby office. Among females, food stores, eating and drinking places and lodging places were most often mentioned as previous industries of employment.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The business situation in the Kalispell labor market area during the past month could be summed up by the word anticipation. The retail and service industries are starting to gear up for another busy tourist season. With a primary route to Glacier National Park, as well as other Western Montana scenic areas, the city of Kalispell derives a great deal of income from the tourist industry, with the greatest flow of travelers coming into the area between the Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays.

Among the area's primary industries, spring runoff is almost history and logging operations are underway again in most cases. At the manufacturing level, lumber orders remain strong, and employment levels remain stable. One firm did shut down operations for a one-to-two week interval for plant modifications; 11 workers affected. Two area camper manufacturing concerns have been cutting back their work force in recent weeks, because of a slack in demand, particularly in Canadian outlets. Construction is not expected to gain any new major projects, although residential building is active.

In Libby, a new medical building will be constructed in the next several months and several downtown merchants have plans for remodeling projects. During this past month, work started on a new 23,000 sq. ft. insurance building.

The area could receive a further blow in August if negotiations fail between union representatives and management in the lumber mills. Area members are ready to walk out if favorable agreements are not reached when the current contract expires on August 1, 1977.

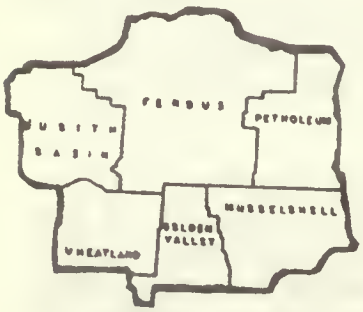
KALISPELL LMA (Cont.)

The construction sector is active with new home building as well as a 48 unit apartment complex and a new 8-plex apartment building. Work is scheduled to start shortly on the construction of a bowling alley/restaurant on the Indian reservation.

As in Kalispell, Polson area motels and restaurants are readying for the summer tourist trade. Several resorts plan to open before the first of June.

During the next several months the economic climate should continue to improve in the Kalispell area. The tourist industry will create some job opportunities, particularly motel/hotel cleaners, gift shop sales help, and waiter/waitress positions. However, all three counties presently have jobless rolls that are higher than the state as a whole. As such, an excess of labor supply exists in nearly in all occupational groups.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In April, the employed labor force jumped 600 from March to 9,500 workers. However, in April one year ago, 9,700 individuals were employed in the six-county labor area.

The number of unemployed persons dropped from 700 in March to 600 in April, 5.8% of all civilian labor force participants. This compares with 7.9% in March and 5.1% in April 1976. Fergus and Musselshell counties were the only two areas showing unemployment rates exceeding 4%. In fact 500 or 83% of all unemployed workers were from the two areas.

Just over one-half of the claims filed by males in the Lewistown job service office were from former lumber and wood products and highway construction workers. Following normal seasonal patterns, unemployment claims fell in April, but not to the same levels of one year ago.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

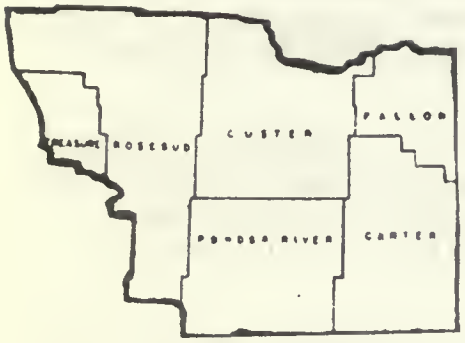
May's labor force statistics should reveal an improved situation as area lumber mills are again in operation, and the gypsum plant is operating at full scale, with three work crews.

In the building field, work is progressing on several homes in Lewistown, as well as the new jail, a church and a new trailer park. The trailer court is being constructed in anticipation of workers moving into the area to work on the A.B.M. project update contract. A mining firm is reopening the Yogo Sapphire Mines in the Little Belt Mountains near Utica. The mine has been operated sporadically by several different firms since its initial discovery in 1894.

Agriculture remains one of the highest sources of income in the six-county Lewistown LMA. Wheat, oats and barley are the main products produced in all but Fergus County, whereas, hay, cattle and sheep are the main agricultural entities in Fergus County. In 1975, Fergus County ranked first in the number of hogs raised in the state, second in cattle and fourth in hay production.

MILES CITY LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



The civilian labor force for the six-county Miles City labor area totaled 14,400 individuals in April, 5.9% below April one year ago. The number of jobholders reached 13,800, up 500 from the previous month. At the same time, unemployment fell 200 to 600 persons, or an unemployment 4.5% ratio. Among labor areas in the state, only Glendive enjoyed a lower rate in April, with a 4.1% rate. The individual counties ranged from an unemployment low of 1.7% in Fallon County to a high of 6.3% in Rosebud County.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

According to figures issued by the Miles City building inspector, 43 building permits valued at $323,927 were issued in April. This compares with 57 permits at a value of $493,620 in April 1976. In the first four months of 1977, 45 new businesses have been created in the six-county area, up from the 35 new firms in the same period a year ago.

In terms of the labor market, supply is meeting or exceeding demand in all industrial categories. Main activities include agricultural planting and cultivating, home building, and highway construction.

Miles City Community College received a $1,529,633 grant from the State Coal Board for construction of a new business-vocational trades building and a new library. Longer range plans call for raising funds for construction of a new physical education facility.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In April, 1,300 additional workers joined the employment ranks in the Missoula labor market area. The four counties combined employment totaled 39,500, compared with 38,200 in March and 39,000 in April 1976.

The number of unemployed persons totaled 4,100 in April, or a 9.3% unemployment rate. The individual counties varied from 15.8% for Mineral County, to 8.2% in Missoula County. Ravalli and Sanders counties registered unemployment rates of 13.3% and 9.3%, respectively.

April reports from the area's employment service office revealed similar unemployment characteristics for the past two months. The largest majority of workers were last employed in one of three following industries: lumber and wood products, highway construction, gasoline service stations, motels and hotels, bar-restaurants, and the health service industry.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

During the first four months of 1977, a total of 248 new business firms entered the Missoula labor market area. This compares with 104 new firms in the same period a year

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

APRIL 1977

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	220	128	2,198
CETA-CEP	64	53	249
CETA-INST.	212	79	807
CETA-OJT	50	26	212
JOB CORPS	79	21	373
PSE TITLE II	35	11	283
PSE TITLE VI	126	52	831

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.[1/]

(1967 = 100)

Group	April 1977	*Percent Change From:* Mar. 1977	April 1976
All Items	179.6	*.8%*	*6.8%*

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED[2/]

APRIL 1977

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Covered Unemployment*
Non-White	*4.7%*
Female	*29.5%*
Youth	*9.2%*
Over 45	*25.5%*

1/ The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

2/ Based on 20% sample of Continued Claims filed during the week including the 19th of each month in all local offices.

Table I

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1975								
January	308.7	279.8	253.0	26.8	28.9	*9.4*	*9.0*	*
February	309.6	278.2	250.8	27.4	31.4	*10.2*	*9.1*	.1
March	316.6	287.3	257.1	30.2	29.3	*9.2*	*9.1*	.3
April	320.3	292.3	259.4	32.9	28.0	*8.7*	*8.6*	.2
May	327.9	304.3	267.3	37.0	23.6	*7.2*	*8.3*	.1
June	349.1	319.7	278.9	40.8	29.4	*8.4*	*9.1*	.1
July	346.9	321.3	279.1	42.2	25.6	*7.4*	*8.7*	.2
August	350.9	327.9	280.7	47.2	23.0	*6.6*	*8.2*	*
September	340.2	317.7	279.3	38.4	22.5	*6.6*	*8.1*	.3
October	332.6	308.4	274.4	34.0	24.2	*7.3*	*7.8*	.3
November	332.4	305.8	274.3	31.5	26.6	*8.0*	*7.8*	.2
December	330.7	300.6	271.4	29.2	30.1	*9.1*	*7.8*	.2
1975 Avg.	330.5	303.6	268.8	34.8	26.9	*8.1*	*8.5*	.1
1976								
January	324.8	291.2	262.4	28.8	33.6	*10.3*	*8.8*	*
February	323.6	292.1	263.3	28.8	31.5	*9.7*	*8.7*	*
March	328.3	297.3	265.8	31.5	31.0	*9.5*	*8.1*	*
April	328.6	302.8	267.8	35.0	25.8	*7.9*	*7.4*	*
May	330.4	308.1	271.0	37.1	22.3	*6.8*	*6.7*	*
June	343.0	314.1	273.0	41.1	28.9	*8.4*	*8.0*	.1
July	341.6	315.3	275.2	40.1	26.3	*7.7*	*7.8*	.1
August	341.4	318.0	273.3	44.7	23.4	*6.9*	*7.6*	.1
September	330.1	309.9	274.3	35.6	20.2	*6.1*	*7.4*	.1
October	329.0	308.0	275.1	32.9	21.0	*6.4*	*7.2*	.1
November	328.5	305.2	276.0	29.2	23.3	*7.1*	*7.4*	.1
December	326.0	301.3	275.4	25.9	24.7	*7.6*	*7.4*	.1
1976 Avg.	331.3	305.3	271.1	34.2	26.0	*7.8*	*7.7*	.1
1977								
January	323.8	292.1	270.9	21.2	31.7	*9.8*	*8.3*	.1
February	325.0	295.9	272.8	23.1	29.1	*9.0*	*8.5*	.1
March	329.1	302.3	274.5	27.8	26.8	*8.1*	*7.9*	.1
April	334.7	311.2	277.1	34.1	23.5	*7.0*	*6.9*	.1
May	*335.5*	*315.7*	*280.5*	*35.2*	*19.8*	*5.9*		*.1*
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. *Series began January 1970.*

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June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. *Series began January 1970.*

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment. *Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1975								
January	31.1	28.5	27.4	1.1	2.6	*8.3*	*9.4*	*
February	31.2	28.2	27.1	1.1	3.0	*9.7*	*10.2*	*
March	31.8	29.0	27.8	1.2	2.8	*8.7*	*9.2*	.1
April	32.5	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.7	*8.3*	*8.7*	.1
May	32.7	30.3	28.8	1.5	2.4	*7.3*	*7.2*	*
June	33.7	30.9	29.3	1.6	2.8	*8.4*	*8.4*	*
July	33.7	31.0	29.3	1.7	2.7	*8.1*	*7.4*	*
August	33.7	31.2	29.3	1.9	2.5	*7.4*	*6.6*	*
September	33.3	30.9	29.4	1.5	2.4	*7.3*	*6.6*	*
October	33.0	30.3	29.0	1.3	2.7	*8.1*	*7.3*	*
November	33.0	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.6	*7.9*	*8.0*	*
December	33.0	30.2	29.0	1.2	2.8	*8.5*	*9.1*	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	*8.2*	*8.1*	*
1976								
January	32.4	29.2	28.1	1.1	3.2	*9.8*	*10.3*	*
February	32.2	29.3	28.2	1.1	2.9	*9.1*	*9.7*	*
March	32.9	29.9	28.7	1.2	3.0	*9.2*	*9.5*	*
April	32.5	29.9	28.5	1.4	2.6	*7.9*	*7.9*	*
May	33.5	31.2	29.7	1.5	2.3	*6.9*	*6.8*	*
June	35.0	31.7	30.1	1.6	3.3	*9.3*	*8.4*	*
July	34.4	31.5	29.9	1.6	2.9	*8.3*	*7.7*	*
August	34.2	31.7	29.9	1.8	2.5	*7.2*	*6.9*	*
September	33.5	31.5	30.1	1.4	2.0	*6.1*	*6.1*	*
October	33.8	31.6	30.3	1.3	2.2	*6.6*	*6.4*	*
November	33.7	31.4	30.2	1.2	2.3	*6.8*	*7.1*	*
December	33.5	31.3	30.3	1.0	2.2	*6.5*	*7.6*	*
1976 Avg.	33.5	30.9	29.5	1.4	2.6	*7.8*	*7.8*	*
1977								
January	33.4	30.4	29.6	.8	3.0	*8.9*	*9.8*	*
February	33.2	30.7	29.8	.9	2.5	*7.5*	*9.0*	*
March	33.7	31.5	30.4	1.1	2.2	*6.5*	*8.1*	*
April	33.9	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.0	*5.9*	*7.0*	*
May	*34.4*	*32.5*	*31.1*	*1.4*	*1.9*	*5.4*	*5.9*	*
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1975								
January	45.4	42.0	40.8	1.2	3.4	*7.6*	*9.4*	*
February	45.1	41.5	40.2	1.3	3.6	*8.0*	*10.2*	*
March	45.6	42.0	40.6	1.4	3.6	*7.9*	*9.2*	.1
April	46.8	43.4	41.9	1.5	3.4	*7.3*	*8.7*	*
May	47.1	44.5	42.8	1.7	2.6	*5.6*	*7.2*	*
June	49.0	45.6	43.7	1.9	3.4	*7.0*	*8.4*	*
July	49.5	46.3	44.4	1.9	3.2	*6.5*	*7.4*	*
August	49.2	46.1	43.9	2.2	3.1	*6.2*	*6.6*	*
September	48.5	45.6	43.8	1.8	2.9	*5.9*	*6.6*	.2
October	48.4	45.6	44.0	1.6	2.8	*5.8*	*7.3*	.2
November	49.2	46.4	45.0	1.4	2.8	*5.8*	*8.0*	*
December	48.6	45.4	44.1	1.3	3.2	*6.5*	*9.1*	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	*6.7*	*8.1*	*
1976								
January	47.4	43.7	42.4	1.3	3.7	*7.9*	*10.3*	*
February	47.1	43.8	42.5	1.3	3.3	*7.0*	*9.7*	*
March	47.5	44.1	42.7	1.4	3.4	*7.2*	*9.5*	*
April	48.3	45.4	43.8	1.6	2.9	*5.9*	*7.9*	*
May	48.1	45.8	44.1	1.7	2.3	*4.8*	*6.8*	*
June	50.7	47.2	45.3	1.9	3.5	*6.9*	*8.4*	*
July	50.4	47.2	45.4	1.8	3.2	*6.3*	*7.7*	*
August	49.8	47.1	45.0	2.1	2.7	*5.5*	*6.9*	*
September	50.0	47.6	46.0	1.6	2.4	*4.7*	*6.1*	*
October	50.7	48.3	46.8	1.5	2.4	*4.6*	*6.4*	*
November	51.0	48.5	47.2	1.3	2.5	*4.9*	*7.1*	*
December	50.8	48.0	46.8	1.2	2.8	*5.6*	*7.6*	*
1976 Avg.	49.3	46.4	44.8	1.6	2.9	*5.9*	*7.8*	*
1977								
January	50.7	46.9	45.9	1.0	3.8	*7.5*	*9.8*	*
February	50.8	47.4	46.3	1.1	3.4	*6.6*	*9.0*	*
March	51.1	48.1	46.8	1.3	3.0	*5.9*	*8.1*	*
April	50.9	48.3	46.7	1.6	2.6	*5.0*	*7.0*	*
May	*51.1*	*48.7*	*47.1*	*1.6*	*2.4*	*4.6*	*5.9*	*
June								
July								
August								
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RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

April 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Apr. 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from: Mar. 1977	Apr. 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	334.7	329.1	328.6	5.6	6.1
EMPLOYED PERSONS	311.2	302.3	302.8	8.9	8.4
Persons Employed in Agriculture	34.1	27.8	35.0	6.3	-.9
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	23.5	26.8	25.8	-3.3	-2.3
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*7.0*	*8.1*	*7.9*	*-1.1*	*-.9*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*6.8*	*7.0*	*7.6*	*-.2*	*-.8*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*248.3*	*245.9*	*240.5*	*2.4*	*7.8*
MANUFACTURING	*23.1*	*23.0*	*21.6*	*.1*	*1.5*
Durable Goods	*14.8*	*14.7*	*13.9*	*.1*	*.9*
24 Lumber and Wood Products	*8.7*	*8.8*	*8.2*	*-.1*	*.5*
33 Primary Metal Industries	*3.3*	*3.2*	*3.0*	*.1*	*.3*
Other Durable Goods	*2.8*	*2.7*	*2.7*	*.1*	*.1*
Nondurable Goods	*8.3*	*8.3*	*7.7*	*0*	*.6*
20 Food and Kindred Products	*4.0*	*4.0*	*3.4*	*0*	*.6*
27 Printing and Publishing	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.9*	*0*	*0*
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	*1.1*	*1.1*	*1.1*	*0*	*0*
Other Nondurable Goods	*1.3*	*1.3*	*1.3*	*0*	*0*
MINING	*5.4*	*5.4*	*5.8*	*0*	*-.4*
10 Metal Mining	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.3*	*0*	*-.2*
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	*1.5*	*1.5*	*1.6*	*0*	*-.1*
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	*1.8*	*1.8*	*1.9*	*0*	*-.1*

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	12.2	10.8	10.9	1.4	1.3
15 General Building Contractors	3.9	3.9	4.0	0	-.1
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	3.6	2.2	2.7	1.4	.9
17 Special Trade Contractors	4.7	4.7	4.2	0	.5
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	19.8	19.5	19.1	.3	.7
40 Railroad Transportation	6.2	6.2	6.0	0	.2
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	6.0	5.8	5.8	.2	.2
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	7.6	7.5	7.3	.1	.3
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	60.5	60.3	59.2	.2	1.3
Wholesale Trade	12.3	12.4	12.0	-.1	.3
Retail Trade	48.2	47.9	47.2	.3	1.0
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	8.1	8.0	8.1	.1	0
54 Food Stores	6.8	6.7	6.4	.1	.4
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	8.0	8.0	7.8	0	.2
58 Eating and Drinking Places	15.4	15.3	15.2	.1	.2
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	9.9	9.9	9.7	0	.2
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	11.0	10.9	10.5	.1	.5
SERVICES	47.5	47.4	45.3	.1	2.2
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	6.0	6.1	5.1	-.1	.9
72 Personal Services	2.6	2.6	2.4	0	.2
80 Medical and other Health Services	15.5	15.4	14.6	.1	.9
Other Services	23.4	23.3	23.2	.1	.2
GOVERNMENT	68.8	68.6	68.1	.2	.7
91 Federal Government	13.2	13.1	13.3	.1	-.1
92 State Colleges and Universities	9.1	9.2	9.7	-.1	-.6
92 Other State Government	11.1	11.0	10.1	.1	1.0
93 Local Education	22.7	22.7	22.3	0	.4
93 Other Local Government	12.7	12.6	12.7	.1	0

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

April 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Apr. 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from: Mar. 1977	Apr. 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1/]	33.9	33.7	32.5	.2	1.4
EMPLOYED PERSONS	31.9	31.5	29.9	.4	2.0
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.3	1.1	1.4	.2	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.0	2.2	2.6	-.2	-.6
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2/]	*5.9*	*6.5*	*7.9*	*-.6*	*-2.0*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2/]	*6.5*	*5.8*	*8.3*	*.7*	*-1.8*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*29.2*	*29.0*	*27.8*	*.2*	*1.4*
Manufacturing	*1.8*	*1.8*	*1.7*	*0*	*.1*
Contract Construction	*1.7*	*1.7*	*1.4*	*0*	*.3*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.9*	*0*	*0*
Wholesale and Retail Trade	*8.7*	*8.6*	*8.5*	*.1*	*.2*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.1*	*2.1*	*1.9*	*0*	*.2*
Services and Mining	*6.9*	*6.8*	*6.3*	*.1*	*.6*
Government	*6.1*	*6.1*	*6.1*	*0*	*0*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Table VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

APRIL 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Apr. 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from: Mar. 1977	Apr. 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1/]	50.9	51.1	48.3	-.2	2.6
EMPLOYED PERSONS	48.3	48.1	45.4	.2	2.9
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.6	1.3	1.6	.3	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.6	3.0	2.9	-.4	-.3
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2/]	*5.0*	*5.9*	*5.9*	*-.9*	*-.9*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2/] .	*5.1*	*5.7*	*6.2*	*-.6*	*-1.1*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establisiment Data)	*42.0*	*42.0*	*39.1*	*0*	*2.9*
MANUFACTURING	*3.7*	*3.7*	*3.2*	*0*	*.5*
Contract Construction	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.0*	*0*	*.1*
Transportation and Public Utilities ...	*3.3*	*3.2*	*3.2*	*.1*	*.1*
Wholesale and Retail Trade	*13.8*	*13.8*	*12.8*	*0*	*1.0*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.2*	*2.2*	*2.1*	*0*	*.1*
Services and Mining	*8.5*	*8.4*	*8.2*	*.1*	*.3*
Government	*8.4*	*8.6*	*7.6*	*-.2*	*.8*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.*

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1977
STATEWIDE	325.0	329.1	334.7	295.9	302.3	311.2	29.1	26.8	23.5	*9.0*	*8.1*	*7.0*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.2	33.7	33.9	30.7	31.5	31.9	2.5	2.2	2.0	*7.5*	*6.5*	*5.9*
BILLINGS SMSA	50.8	51.1	50.9	47.4	48.1	48.3	3.4	3.0	2.6	*6.6*	*5.9*	*5.0*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	241.0	244.3	249.9	217.8	222.7	231.0	23.2	21.6	18.9	*9.6*	*8.8*	*7.6*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	32.4	32.4	32.8	28.9	29.2	28.9	3.5	3.2	2.9	*10.7*	*10.0*	*9.0*
BOZEMAN	22.9	23.2	23.3	20.9	21.4	21.7	2.2	1.8	1.6	*8.6*	*7.9*	*6.7*
GLASGOW	15.3	15.8	16.6	14.0	14.9	15.7	1.3	1.1	.9	*8.8*	*7.2*	*5.5*
GLENDIVE	12.5	12.9	13.6	11.7	12.2	13.0	1.1	.7	.6	*6.7*	*5.3*	*4.1*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	10.8	11.2	11.6	9.9	10.4	10.9	1.1	.8	.7	*8.4*	*7.2*	*5.8*
HAVRE	11.8	12.2	12.5	10.9	11.4	11.8	1.0	.8	.7	*7.5*	*6.5*	*5.4*
HELENA	23.5	23.9	24.3	21.9	22.3	22.9	1.8	1.6	1.4	*6.9*	*6.8*	*5.8*
KALISPELL	30.6	30.9	30.9	26.3	26.6	27.0	4.5	4.3	3.9	*14.0*	*14.0*	*12.5*
LEWISTOWN	9.4	9.6	10.1	8.4	8.9	9.5	.9	.7	.6	*10.8*	*7.9*	*5.8*
MILES CITY	13.8	14.1	14.4	12.8	13.3	13.8	1.2	.8	.6	*7.2*	*6.1*	*4.5*
MISSOULA	42.2	42.5	43.6	37.5	38.2	39.5	5.2	4.3	4.1	*11.0*	*10.1*	*9.3*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	14.9	15.5	16.2	13.6	14.3	15.2	1.5	1.2	1.0	*8.3*	*7.4*	*6.3*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Apr. 1977	Apr. 1976	Percent Change 1976-1977	Apr. 1977	Apr. 1976	Percent Change 1976-1977	Apr. 1977	Apr. 1976	Net Change 1976-1977	Apr. 1977	Apr. 1976	Net Change 1976-1977
STATEWIDE	334.7	328.6	*1.9*	311.2	302.8	*2.8*	23.5	25.8	-2.3	*7.0*	*7.9*	*-.9*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.9	32.5	*4.3*	31.9	29.9	*6.7*	2.0	2.6	-.6	*5.9*	*7.9*	*-2.0*
BILLINGS SMSA	50.9	48.3	*5.4*	48.3	45.4	*6.4*	2.6	2.9	-.3	*5.0*	*5.9*	*-.9*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	249.9	247.8	*.8*	231.0	227.5	*1.5*	18.9	20.3	-1.4	*7.6*	*8.2*	*-.6*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	32.8	35.4	*-7.3*	28.9	31.9	*-9.4*	2.9	3.5	-.6	*9.0*	*9.8*	*-.8*
BOZEMAN	23.3	23.8	*-2.1*	21.7	22.1	*-1.8*	1.6	1.7	-.1	*6.7*	*7.1*	*-.4*
GLASGOW	16.6	15.4	*7.8*	15.7	14.5	*8.3*	.9	.9	0	*5.5*	*5.6*	*-.1*
GLENDIVE	13.6	12.4	*9.7*	13.0	11.9	*9.2*	.6	.5	.1	*4.1*	*4.1*	*0*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	11.6	11.6	*0*	10.9	10.8	*.9*	.7	.8	-.1	*5.8*	*6.9*	*-1.1*
HAVRE	12.5	11.1	*12.6*	11.8	10.5	*12.4*	.7	.6	.1	*5.4*	*5.5*	*-.1*
HELENA	24.3	23.9	*1.7*	22.9	22.4	*2.2*	1.4	1.5	-.1	*5.8*	*6.1*	*-.3*
KALISPELL	30.9	29.0	*6.6*	27.0	24.5	*10.2*	3.9	4.5	-.6	*12.5*	*15.6*	*-3.1*
LEWISTOWN	10.1	10.2	*-1.0*	9.5	9.7	*-2.1*	.6	.5	.1	*5.8*	*5.1*	*.7*
MILES CITY	14.4	15.3	*-5.9*	13.8	14.7	*-6.1*	.6	.6	0	*4.5*	*4.2*	*.3*
MISSOULA	43.6	43.3	*.7*	39.5	39.0	*1.3*	4.1	4.3	-.2	*9.3*	*10.0*	*-.7*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.2	16.5	*-1.8*	15.2	15.5	*-1.9*	1.0	1.0		*6.3*	*5.9*	*.4*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Table IX

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE, BY COUNTY

APRIL 1977

AREA	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
BEAVERHEAD	4,144	3,971	173	4.2
BIG HORN	4,165	3,813	352	8.5
BLAINE	3,009	2,818	191	6.3
BROADWATER	1,278	1,203	75	5.9
CARBON	3,407	3,229	178	5.2
CARTER	911	892	19	2.1
CHOUTEAU	3,103	3,018	85	2.7
CUSTER	5,393	5,131	262	4.9
DANIELS	1,403	1,369	34	2.4
DAWSON	4,901	4,677	224	4.6
DEER LODGE	6,060	5,526	534	8.8
FALLON	2,096	2,060	36	1.7
FERGUS	5,029	4,690	339	6.7
FLATHEAD	18,171	16,034	2,137	11.8
GALLATIN	17,190	16,189	1,001	5.8
GARFIELD	881	870	11	1.2
GLACIER	4,491	4,009	482	10.7
GOLDEN VALLEY	451	434	17	3.8
GRANITE	1,061	933	128	12.1
HILL	8,310	7,854	456	5.5
JEFFERSON	3,076	2,891	185	6.0
JUDITH BASIN	1,228	1,196	32	2.6
LAKE	6,573	6,039	534	8.1
LEWIS and CLARK	19,983	18,830	1,153	5.8
LIBERTY	1,141	1,112	29	2.5
LINCOLN	6,137	4,955	1,182	19.3
McCONE	1,383	1,337	46	3.3
MADISON	2,241	2,102	139	6.2
MEAGHER	829	767	62	7.5
MINERAL	1,625	1,369	256	15.8
MISSOULA	31,384	28,817	2,567	8.2
MUSSELSHELL	1,803	1,644	159	8.8
PARK	5,188	4,696	492	9.5
PETROLEUM	304	299	5	1.6
PHILLIPS	2,731	2,584	147	5.4
PONDERA	3,392	3,259	133	3.9
POWDER RIVER	1,057	1,030	27	2.6
POWELL	3,158	2,847	311	9.8
PRAIRIE	995	970	25	2.5
RAVALLI	6,391	5,539	852	13.3
RICHLAND	4,756	4,531	225	4.7
ROOSEVELT	5,587	5,280	307	5.5
ROSEBUD	4,421	4,143	278	6.3
SANDERS	4,196	3,807	389	9.3
SHERIDAN	2,371	2,302	69	2.9
SILVER BOW	16,210	14,550	1,660	10.2
STILLWATER	2,505	2,394	111	4.4
SWEET GRASS	1,479	1,448	31	2.1
TETON	2,673	2,538	135	5.1
TOOLE	2,608	2,418	190	7.3
TREASURE	517	496	21	4.1
VALLEY	4,489	4,129	360	8.0
WHEATLAND	1,290	1,260	30	2.3
WIBAUX	640	621	19	3.0

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

Table X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

APRIL 1977

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
	Apr. 1977 1/	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1976	Net Change to Current Month From: Mar. 1977	Net Change to Current Month From: Apr. 1977	Total April	Percent Women 1977	Total March	Percent Women 1977
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	103.8	103.4	97.6	.4	6.2	248.3	*41.8*	245.9	*42.0*
Manufacturing	3.0	2.9	2.6	.1	.4	23.1	*13.0*	23.0	*12.6*
Mining	.3	.3	.3	0	0	5.4	*5.6*	5.4	*5.6*
Contract Construction	.7	.7	.8	0	-.1	12.2	*5.7*	10.8	*6.5*
Transportation & Public Utilities .	3.6	3.5	3.5	.1	.1	19.8	*18.2*	19.5	*17.9*
Wholesale & Retail Trade	26.8	26.6	24.7	.2	2.1	60.5	*44.3*	60.3	*44.1*
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	7.0	6.9	6.5	.1	.5	11.0	*63.6*	10.9	*63.3*
Services	30.0	30.2	28.6	-.2	1.4	47.4	*63.3*	47.4	*63.7*
Government 2/	32.4	32.3	30.6	.1	1.8	68.8	*47.1*	68.6	*47.1*

1/ Current month preliminary. Revised to 1976 Benchmark. Establishment Series began January 1974.

2/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1976

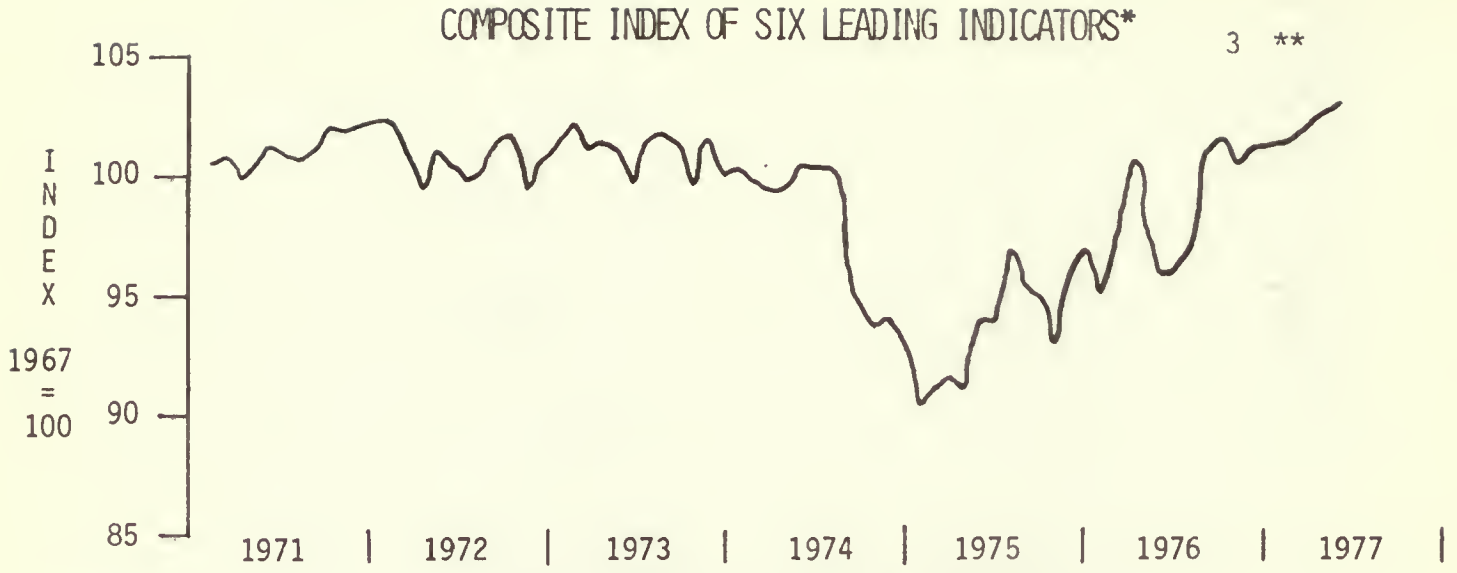
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	95.5	95.4	96.5	97.6	98.7	98.9	99.0	98.4	99.5	101.2	102.2	102.6	98.8
Manufacturing	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.7	.8
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	23.3	23.0	23.8	24.7	25.2	25.5	26.1	25.9	26.1	26.0	26.3	26.6	25.2
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate .	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.6
Services	28.3	28.3	28.5	28.6	28.8	28.9	29.4	29.5	29.8	29.7	29.9	29.9	29.1
Government1/	30.3	30.5	30.6	30.6	30.8	30.3	29.1	28.5	29.2	31.0	31.6	31.8	30.4

1977

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	101.4	101.7	103.4	103.8
Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	.7	.7	.7	.7
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	26.0	25.9	26.6	26.8
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate .	6.8	6.8	6.9	7.0
Services	29.9	30.1	30.2	30.0
Government1/	31.2	31.4	32.3	32.4

1/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1976 Benchmark.
Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U. S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS



Composite Index of
SIX LEADING INDICATORS
1967 = 100

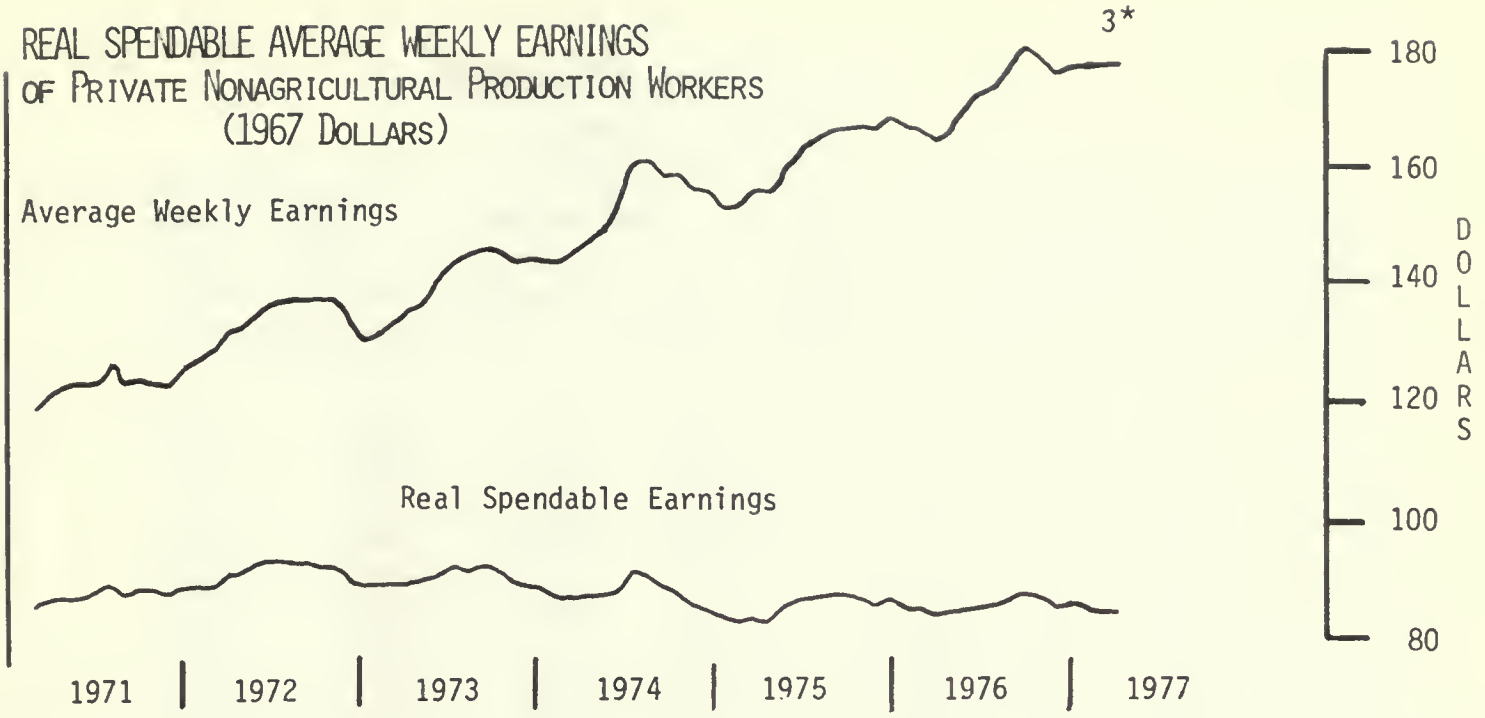
1976	
January	96.8
February	95.0
March	97.4
April	100.5
May	97.7
June	95.7
July	95.9
August	96.9
September	100.9
October	101.5
November	100.4
December	101.1
1977	
January	101.4
February	102.0
March	102.7
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

Despite the large monthly increase in Average Weekly Initial Claims (18.1%) and the increase in the layoff rate, the March Composite Index climbed to 102.7, the highest index value recorded in the past ten years. Building permits played a major role in this advance with a 32.3% increase since February, and reinforcement came from Manufacturing Employment which increased 600 workers during the period. Preliminary data for April do suggest a slight weakening of the index but there is no indication that the Composite Index will drop below 100.0 at anytime during the next few months.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*



	Apr. 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1976
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	$177.92	$174.94	$165.50
Taxes Withheld	27.21	26.31	23.48
Spendable Earnings	150.71	148.67	142.02
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	66.79	65.23	57.58
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	83.92	83.40	84.44

	Average Weekly Earnings[1/]	Real Spendable Earnings[2/]
1976		
July	172.67	85.92
Aug.	175.69	86.77
Sep.	178.92	87.72
Oct.	177.79	86.90
Nov.	175.02	85.54
Dec.	175.78	85.62
1977		
Jan.	175.94	85.17
Feb.	176.00	84.35
Mar.	174.94	83.40
Apr.	177.92p	83.92p
May		
June		
July		
Aug.		
Sep.		
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

SPENDABLE EARNINGS

Private Non-Agricultural Production wage earners continue to lose ground to inflation and taxes. Final figures for March 1977 place Average Weekly Real Spendable Earnings at $83.40 (a decrease of 16.6% in the purchasing power since 1967). During the past 36 months inflation, as measured by the U.S. Consumer Price Index, has increased 24.5%. At the same time the amount of the average production worker's income withheld for state taxes has increased 43.3% and 29.6% for federal taxes. In contrast, earnings have increased only 20.5%. The net effect since March 1974 is a decrease of 4.2% in Real Spendable Earnings.

Some relief is in sight for April, but a prolonged period of increasing wages coupled with minimal inflation and reduced taxes is needed to shore-up the deteriorating real wage base.

* *Indicates last month of plotted data.* *p: Preliminary.*

1/ Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

Table XII

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] Montana	Percent[1] U. S.	
1975								
January	326.0	303.0	265.8	37.2	23.0	7.0	8.2	*
February	326.4	300.0	263.3	36.7	26.4	8.1	8.2	.1
March	326.0	300.0	265.2	34.8	26.0	8.0	8.7	.3
April	323.2	295.6	262.7	32.9	27.6	8.5	8.9	.2
May	325.6	299.0	265.1	33.9	26.6	8.2	9.2	.1
June	327.4	299.7	267.7	32.0	27.7	8.4	8.6	.1
July	327.8	301.3	268.9	32.4	26.5	8.1	8.4	.2
August	329.3	302.9	270.2	32.7	26.4	8.0	8.4	*
September	333.1	306.3	273.7	32.6	26.8	8.1	8.3	.3
October	336.4	308.4	273.1	35.3	28.0	8.3	8.6	.3
November	341.0	313.0	275.4	37.6	28.0	8.2	8.3	.2
December	343.5	314.0	274.6	39.4	29.5	8.6	8.3	.2
1975 Avg.	330.5	303.6	268.8	34.8	26.9	8.1	8.5	.1
1976								
January	342.7	315.0	274.6	40.4	27.7	8.1	7.8	*
February	341.1	314.6	275.6	39.0	26.5	7.8	7.6	*
March	337.8	309.9	273.8	36.1	27.9	8.3	7.5	*
April	332.6	307.2	272.2	35.0	25.4	7.6	7.5	*
May	328.2	302.9	269.4	33.5	25.3	7.7	7.3	*
June	320.7	293.6	261.9	31.7	27.1	8.4	7.5	.1
July	321.6	294.4	264.5	29.9	27.2	8.5	7.8	.1
August	319.1	292.2	262.3	29.9	26.9	8.4	7.9	.1
September	322.4	297.7	267.5	30.2	24.7	7.7	7.9	.1
October	332.8	307.9	273.6	34.3	24.9	7.5	7.9	.1
November	338.4	313.9	278.7	35.2	24.5	7.3	8.1	.1
December	337.9	314.0	278.2	35.8	23.9	7.1	7.9	.1
1976 Avg.	331.3	305.3	271.1	34.2	26.0	7.8	7.7	.1
1977								
January	341.7	315.9	283.1	32.8	25.8	7.6	7.3	.1
February	342.5	318.4	285.1	33.3	24.1	7.0	7.5	.1
March	338.6	315.0	282.7	32.3	23.6	7.0	7.3	.1
April	338.6	315.6	281.5	34.1	23.0	6.8		.1
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.
* Under 50.

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table XIII

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1975								
January	32.4	30.3	28.7	1.6	2.1	6.5	7.0	*
February	32.7	30.0	28.5	1.5	2.7	8.3	8.1	*
March	32.5	29.9	28.5	1.4	2.6	8.1	8.0	.1
April	32.6	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.8	8.7	8.5	.1
May	32.4	29.9	28.6	1.3	2.5	7.8	8.2	*
June	32.2	29.7	28.5	1.2	2.5	7.8	6.4	*
July	32.4	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.6	8.2	8.1	*
August	32.5	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.7	8.2	8.0	*
September	32.7	30.0	28.8	1.2	2.7	8.2	8.1	*
October	33.0	30.0	28.7	1.3	3.0	9.0	8.3	*
November	33.6	30.8	29.3	1.5	2.8	8.3	8.2	*
December	33.4	30.5	29.0	1.5	2.9	8.8	8.6	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	8.2	8.1	*
1976								
January	33.7	31.0	29.3	1.7	2.7	8.0	8.1	*
February	33.6	31.0	29.4	1.6	2.6	7.7	7.8	*
March	33.7	30.8	29.4	1.4	2.9	8.6	8.3	*
April	32.5	29.8	28.4	1.4	2.7	8.3	7.6	*
May	33.1	30.7	29.4	1.3	2.4	7.3	7.7	*
June	33.3	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.9	8.8	8.4	*
July	33.1	30.3	29.1	1.2	2.8	8.4	8.5	*
August	33.0	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.6	8.0	8.4	*
September	32.9	30.6	29.4	1.2	2.3	6.9	7.7	*
October	34.0	31.5	30.2	1.3	2.5	7.4	7.5	*
November	34.2	31.7	30.3	1.4	2.5	7.3	7.3	*
December	34.1	31.8	30.4	1.4	2.3	6.8	7.1	*
1976 Avg.	33.5	30.9	29.5	1.4	2.6	7.8	7.8	*
1977								
January	34.9	32.4	31.1	1.3	2.5	7.2	7.6	*
February	34.5	32.4	31.0	1.4	2.1	6.2	7.0	*
March	34.4	32.4	31.1	1.3	2.0	5.8	7.0	*
April	34.0	31.8	30.4	1.4	2.2	6.5	6.8	*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

RESIDENCE DATA

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1975								
January	46.9	44.0	42.3	1.7	2.9	6.2	7.0	*
February	46.6	43.3	41.6	1.7	3.3	7.0	8.1	*
March	46.5	43.3	41.7	1.6	3.2	7.0	8.0	.1
April	47.3	43.7	42.2	1.5	3.6	7.6	8.5	*
May	47.3	44.3	42.8	1.5	3.0	6.3	8.2	*
June	47.3	44.2	42.7	1.5	3.1	6.5	8.4	*
July	47.8	44.7	43.3	1.4	3.1	6.5	8.1	*
August	48.2	45.0	43.4	1.6	3.2	6.5	8.0	*
September	48.6	45.4	43.9	1.5	3.2	6.6	8.1	.2
October	48.0	44.8	43.2	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.3	.2
November	49.0	45.9	44.2	1.7	3.1	6.3	8.2	*
December	49.0	45.8	44.0	1.8	3.2	6.6	8.6	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.1	*
1976								
January	49.0	45.8	44.0	1.8	3.2	6.6	8.1	*
February	48.8	45.9	44.2	1.7	2.9	6.0	7.8	*
March	48.7	45.6	44.0	1.6	3.1	6.4	8.3	*
April	48.7	45.7	44.1	1.6	3.0	6.2	7.6	*
May	47.9	45.3	43.8	1.5	2.6	5.5	7.7	*
June	48.9	45.7	44.2	1.5	3.2	6.5	8.4	*
July	48.7	45.7	44.4	1.3	3.0	6.2	8.5	*
August	48.7	45.8	44.3	1.5	2.9	5.9	8.4	*
September	49.9	47.2	45.8	1.4	2.7	5.4	7.7	*
October	50.4	47.7	46.1	1.6	2.7	5.5	7.5	*
November	50.9	48.1	46.5	1.6	2.8	5.4	7.3	*
December	51.0	48.1	46.4	1.7	2.9	5.7	7.1	*
1976 Avg.	49.3	46.4	44.8	1.6	2.9	5.9	7.8	*
1977								
January	52.2	48.9	47.5	1.4	3.3	6.3	7.6	*
February	52.6	49.6	48.1	1.5	3.0	5.7	7.0	*
March	52.7	49.7	48.3	1.4	3.0	5.7	7.0	*
April	51.2	48.6	47.0	1.6	2.6	5.1	6.8	*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.
** Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

APRIL 1977

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr. 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1976	Apr. 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1976	Apr. 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1976
TOTAL PRIVATE	$177.92	$174.94	$163.61	35.8	35.2	35.8	4.97	4.97	4.57
MANUFACTURING	253.15	246.84	223.68	40.7	40.4	38.9	6.22	6.11	5.75
Durable Goods	252.35	246.19	215.05	40.9	41.1	39.1	6.17	5.99	5.50
Primary Metal Industries	284.10	274.06	267.73	38.6	38.6	40.2	7.36	7.10	6.66
Nondurable Goods	254.47	247.81	258.61	40.2	38.6	38.2	6.33	6.42	6.77
Food and Kindred Products	219.63	218.50	221.55	38.6	38.0	38.8	5.69	5.75	5.71
MINING	330.75	314.22	289.38	45.0	43.4	42.0	7.35	7.24	6.89
Metal Mining	313.96	290.48	280.30	42.6	40.4	40.8	7.37	7.19	6.87
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	332.35	327.60	288.41	39.1	39.0	37.7	8.50	8.36	7.65
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	283.46	285.66	241.25	41.2	41.4	40.2	6.88	6.90	6.25
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	254.92	254.92	217.74	40.4	40.4	38.2	6.31	6.31	5.70
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	144.63	143.03	137.45	34.6	34.8	35.7	4.18	4.11	3.85
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	130.65	126.91	120.41	36.7	37.0	36.6	3.56	3.43	3.29
SERVICES	106.70	109.07	106.10	31.2	29.4	31.7	3.42	3.71	3.35

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table XVI

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

MARCH 1977

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1976	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1976	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1976	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1976	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1976
MANUFACTURING	3.2	2.5	1.5	2.6	1.8	0.9	3.9	3.1	1.0	1.3	1.6	0.6	2.0	0.7	0.1
Durable Goods	3.2	2.4	1.7	2.7	1.7	0.8	2.4	2.4	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.1
Primary Metal Industries	4.8	2.5	3.6	4.0	1.7	0.3	3.5	1.6	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.4	2.6	0.5	0.0
Nondurable Goods	3.0	2.7	1.1	2.6	2.0	1.0	6.4	4.3	0.9	1.8	2.4	0.4	3.9	0.5	0.3
MINING	3.3	1.1	2.0	2.0	0.4	1.4	3.0	3.0	2.2	1.5	2.2	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.8
Metal Mining	3.0	0.6	1.5	*	*	0.0	3.3	2.0	1.6	0.3	*	0.0	1.9	0.6	0.6

* *Less than .05.*
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

Table XVII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	April 1977	April 1976	Year to Date 1977	Year to Date 1976
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	10	28	104	88
MINING	13	12	52	27
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	80	34	280	112
MANUFACTURING	27	5	68	28
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	13	5	54	20
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	113	45	398	145
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	32	12	155	83
SERVICES	117	69	484	284
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	8	0	27	0
STATE TOTAL	413	210	1,622	787

Table XVIII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
			Year to Date	
	APRIL 1977	APRIL 1976	1977	1976
STATE OF MONTANA	413	210	1622	787
GREAT FALLS SMSA	49	20	195	81
BILLINGS SMSA	47	32	235	111
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	24	22	124	72
Beaverhead	2	8	15	17
Deer Lodge	1	1	3	7
Granite	1	0	4	0
Madison	3	3	15	4
Powell	1	2	9	7
Silver Bow	16	8	78	37
BOZEMAN LMA	43	19	167	60
Gallatin	33	14	130	48
Meagher	0	0	2	2
Park	10	5	35	10
GLASGOW LMA	13	10	41	47
Daniels	0	1	2	12
Phillips	2	1	4	1
Roosevelt	9	7	13	12
Sheridan	0	1	5	11
Valley	2	0	17	11
GLENDIVE LMA	18	9	49	30
Dawson	7	4	16	13
Garfield	0	1	3	2
McCone	1	1	1	6
Prairie	2	0	9	2
Richland	7	3	18	7
Wibaux	1	0	2	0
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	12	12	36	25
Big Horn	3	1	11	7
Carbon	6	6	16	11
Stillwater	2	2	7	4
Sweet Grass	1	3	2	3

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
			Year to Date	
	APRIL 1977	APRIL 1976	1977	1976
HAVRE LMA	15	4	50	28
Blaine	3	0	8	3
Hill	8	4	26	21
Liberty	4	0	16	4
HELENA LMA	33	22	123	56
Broadwater	1	1	6	1
Jefferson	1	3	7	6
Lewis and Clark	31	18	110	49
KALISPELL LMA	56	20	194	86
Flathead	44	17	129	63
Lake	6	3	36	20
Lincoln	6	0	29	3
LEWISTOWN LMA	6	3	36	14
Fergus	2	3	23	10
Golden Valley	0	0	1	1
Judith Basin	1	0	2	0
Musselshell	3	0	9	2
Petroleum	0	0	0	1
Wheatland	0	0	1	0
MILES CITY LMA	9	7	45	35
Carter	0	0	3	1
Custer	6	2	25	13
Fallon	0	1	3	4
Powder River	0	0	0	3
Rosebud	2	2	11	12
Treasure	1	2	3	2
MISSOULA LMA	78	20	248	104
Mineral	1	0	2	1
Missoula	55	16	181	79
Ravalli	13	4	44	14
Sanders	9	0	21	10
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	10	10	79	38
Chouteau	1	2	9	7
Glacier	2	2	9	10
Pondera	5	2	26	4
Teton	0	1	6	8
Toole	2	3	29	9

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

The bulk of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter one of our 23 local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified.* Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

* *If sufficient wage credits have been secured by a claimant from sources other than insured employment, he may be eligible for benefits which are financed wholly or partially from federal funds.*

Table XIX

DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

APRIL 1977

COUNTY	NO. OF PAYS	INTRASTATE AMOUNT OF PAYS
BEAVERHEAD	223	16,346.00
BIG HORN	401	31,452.00
BLAINE	183	12,829.00
BROADWATER	92	6,964.00
CARBON	323	23,653.00
CARTER	16	1,201.00
CASCADE	2,722	196,348.00
CHOUTEAU	115	7,600.00
CUSTER	423	34,233.00
DANIELS	41	3,494.00
DAWSON	316	22,661.00
DEER LODGE	949	78,818.00
FALLON	36	2,981.00
FERGUS	573	42,912.00
FLATHEAD	3,245	252,918.00
GALLATIN	1,654	124,976.00
GARFIELD	26	2,109.00
GLACIER	849	64,294.00
GOLDEN VALLEY	25	1,417.00
GRANITE	212	16,007.00
HILL	540	40,551.00
JEFFERSON	340	27,566.00
JUDITH BASIN	46	3,604.00
LAKE	742	52,202.00
LEWIS & CLARK	1,645	125,475.92
LIBERTY	17	1,255.00
LINCOLN	2,012	167,430.00
MADISON	168	10,330.00
MCCONE	56	3,431.00
MEAGHER	88	6,951.00
MINERAL	439	32,152.00
MISSOULA	3,459	257,072.00
MUSSELSHELL	344	26,658.00
PARK	683	48,568.00
PETROLEUM	4	388.00
PHILLIPS	183	12,134.00
PONDERA	151	11,284.00
POWDER RIVER	33	2,961.00
POWELL	428	34,409.00
PRAIRIE	57	4,369.00
RAVALLI	895	63,429.00
RICHLAND	252	19,167.00
ROOSEVELT	309	21,030.00
ROSEBUD	494	40,930.00
SANDERS	575	43,500.00
SHERIDAN	74	5,642.00
SILVER BOW	3,188	258,686.00
STILLWATER	176	14,505.00
SWEETGRASS	39	3,252.00
TETON	147	10,909.00
TOOLE	242	19,510.00
TREASURE	37	2,963.00
VALLEY	453	32,976.00
WHEATLAND	38	3,526.00
WIBAUX	34	1,851.00
YELLOWSTONE	4,389	343,618.00
TOTAL FOR STATE	35,201	2,697,497.92
INTERSTATE	2,202	188,764.97
TOTAL	37,403	2,886,262.89

Table XX

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

JANUARY THRU APRIL 1977

COUNTY	NO. OF PAYS	INTRASTATE AMOUNT OF PAYS
BEAVERHEAD	1,152	84,185.00
BIG HORN	1,992	158,360.00
BLAINE	1,019	72,120.00
BROADWATER	493	35,932.00
CARBON	1,431	108,098.00
CARTER	126	9,518.00
CASCADE	14,824	1,087,542.00
CHOUTEAU	657	43,552.00
CUSTER	2,716	219,600.00
DANIELS	227	18,392.00
DAWSON	1,964	143,537.00
DEER LODGE	3,774	298,928.00
FALLON	271	22,897.00
FERGUS	2,978	224,850.00
FLATHEAD	14,162	1,051,951.49
GALLATIN	7,620	574,850.00
GARFIELD	189	15,400.00
GLACIER	3,195	234,245.00
GOLDEN VALLEY	127	8,576.00
GRANITE	1,001	75,804.00
HILL	2,842	213,769.00
JEFFERSON	1,745	143,177.00
JUDITH BASIN	178	14,242.00
LAKE	3,846	268,120.00
LEWIS & CLARK	8,151	626,683.92
LIBERTY	151	10,999.00
LINCOLN	6,299	487,559.00
MADISON	732	46,750.00
MCCONE	254	17,984.00
MEAGHER	488	39,975.00
MINERAL	1,771	127,804.68
MISSOULA	16,604	1,196,960.50
MUSSELSHELL	1,524	118,577.00
PARK	3,018	208,750.22
PETROLEUM	27	2,587.00
PHILLIPS	839	58,068.00
PONDERA	985	75,894.00
POWDER RIVER	200	18,589.00
POWELL	1,829	144,255.00
PRAIRIE	428	35,880.00
RAVALLI	4,421	313,441.00
RICHLAND	1,183	89,970.00
ROOSEVELT	1,531	106,926.00
ROSEBUD	2,332	192,495.00
SANDERS	2,239	162,717.00
SHERIDAN	460	34,940.00
SILVER BOW	13,212	1,053,883.00
STILLWATER	927	78,136.00
SWEETGRASS	277	22,842.00
TETON	855	63,273.75
TOOLE	1,131	89,124.00
TREASURE	253	21,118.00
VALLEY	2,733	201,995.00
WHEATLAND	259	22,272.00
WIBAUX	197	12,455.00
YELLOWSTONE	20,979	1,663,496.00
TOTAL FOR STATE	164,818	12,474,045.56
INTERSTATE	12,227	1,190,334.17
TOTAL	177,045	13,664,379.73

Table XXI

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

ANNUAL

	1976	1975	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1/]	47,963	45,442	2,521	5.5
Continued Claims[1/]	467,666	486,975	-19,309	-4.0
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	396,944	433,221	-36,277	-8.4
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$26,260,735	$25,176,953	$1,083,782	4.3
Trust Fund Balance	$ 1,008,042*	$ 7,003,178*	-$5,995,136	-85.6

MONTHLY

	APRIL 1977	MARCH 1977	APRIL 1976	Change From Year Ago Net	Change From Year Ago Percent
Initial Claims[1/]	3,716	3,890	4,422	-706	-16.0
Continued Claims[1/]	39,009	50,859	42,949	-3,940	-9.2
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	37,403	51,595	39,624	-2,221	-5.6
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$2,886,263	$4,058,728	$2,606,837	$279,426	10.7
Trust Fund Balance	$3,660,827*	$ 995,591*	$2,817,389*	$843,438	29.9

1/ *Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.*
* *Includes loans from Federal Government.*

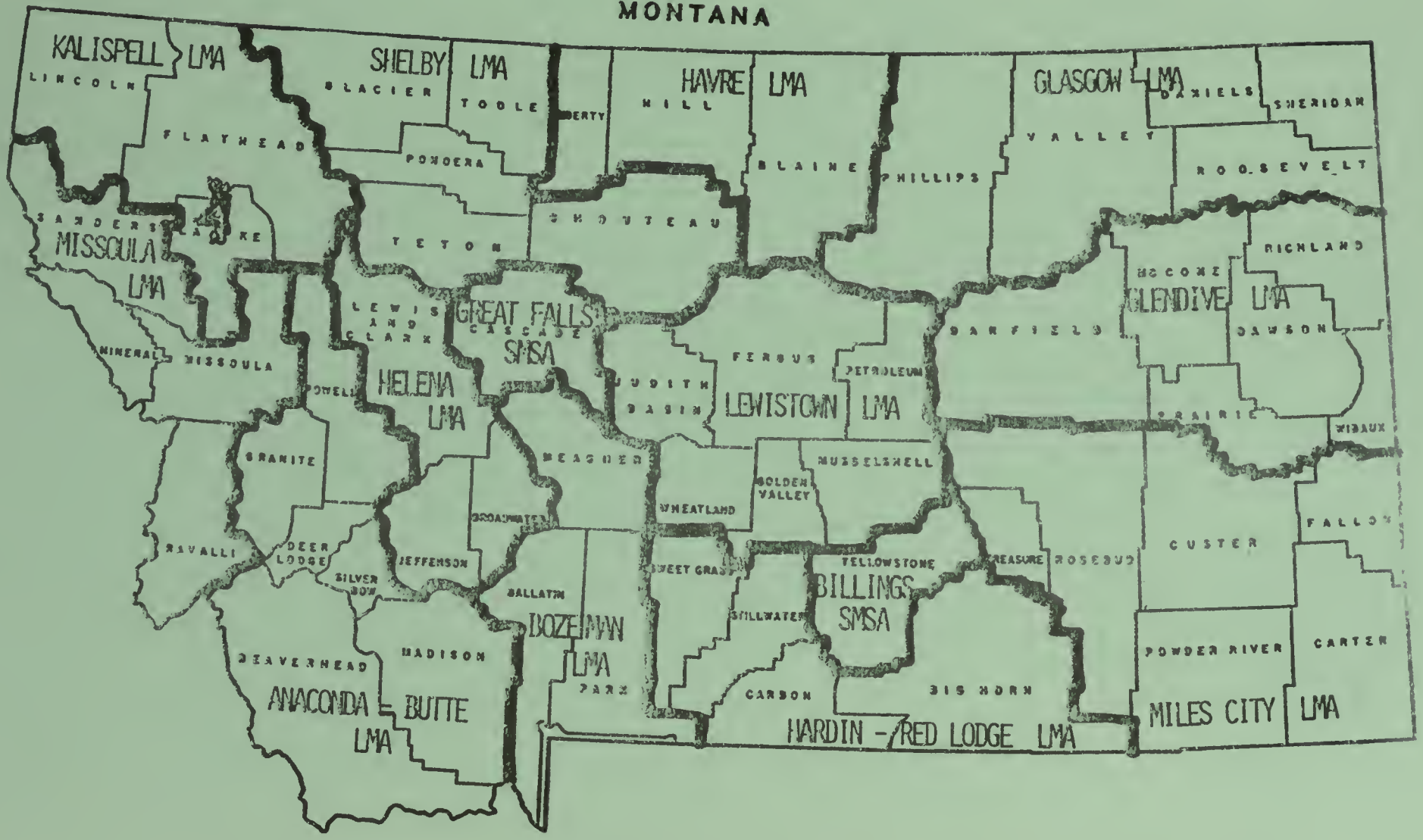
Unemployment Insurance statistics for the month of April have indicated favorable economic conditions. Initial claims, Continued claims, and the Number of Benefit Payments have all declined from the previous month and from the same time frame of a year ago. Even more significant, is the fact that after seasonal adjustment, Continued claims and the Number of Benefit Payments recorded their lowest totals since October 1974 and December 1974 respectively. The amount of benefit payments accelerated since last month; however, this is attributable to rising incomes and subsequently rising average weekly benefit amounts.

For the first time in three months, the state did not have to borrow money from the federal government to pay benefits. Higher employer tax rates became payable in April and this, coupled with a lower benefit payout, caused the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance to increase substantially in the past month.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
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The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.